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LEVENS HALL

C. K. Watchorn
Manchester 29 Nov 1947

Levens Hall, Westmorland.

"When we build, let us think that we build for ever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone; let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labour and wrought substance of them, 'See! this our fathers did for us.' For, indeed, the greatest glory of a building is not in its stones, nor in its gold. Its glory is in its Age, and in that deep sense of voicefulness, of stern watching, of mysterious sympathy, nay, even of approval or condemnation, which we feel in walls that have been washed by the passing waves of humanity. It is in their lasting witness against men, in their quiet contrast with the transitional character of all things, in the strength which, through the lapse of seasons and times, and the decline and birth of dynasties maintains its sculptured shapeliness for a time insuperable. It is in that golden stain of time, that we are to look for the real light, and colour, and preciousness; and it is not until a building has assumed this character, till it has been entrusted with the fame, and hallowed by the deeds of men, till its walls have been witnesses of suffering, and its pillars rise out of the shadows of death, that its existence, more lasting as it is than that of the natural objects of the world around it, can be gifted with even so much as these possess, of language and of life."

RUSKIN.

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LEVENS HALL.—Front View.

Historical Description

OF

Levens Hall.

Being a Paper prepared for
the visit of the Royal Archæological Society of Great Britain and Ireland,
on the twenty-first day of July, MDCCCXCVIII.

BY

JOHN F. CURWEN,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

MOSTLY ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY
Mr. J. H. HOGG.

"LUCK TO LEVENS AS LONG AS THE KENT FLOWS."

KENDAL:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY T. WILSON, 28, HIGHGATE.

MDCCCXCVIII.

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UPPER LEVENS HALL.

THE Manorial Hall of Levens, the seat of Captain Josceline Bagot, is a fine old early English building, an ideal homestead, situated upon the banks of the river Kent. This variable stream, as it flows in front of the ancient Court Yard to the sandy estuary below, at one moment a purling brooklet rippling and sparkling in the sunshine, can scarcely be recognised in the next, as in quickly gathering flood, it

> "Hastens along, conflicting and strong,
> Now striking and raging, as if a war waging,
> Its caverns and rocks among."

Above the ivy-clad bridge, which few traverse without a sensation of pleasure, is an extensive deer park, surrounding an avenue of venerable oaks, nearly a mile in length.

The origin of the name "Levens" is indeed difficult to determine, as many are the theories put forward respecting it, and curiously enough, each having diametrically the opposite cause. Some would have us believe that it is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "lefe," or "leve," signifying a leaf, with the common plural termination of "en," and was applied to this district on account of the abundance of foliage growing upon it. The name has been indifferently spelled "Lefuen," "Leuen," and "Leven," and as in the Domes-day Book, we find it spelled "Lefuenes," being a reduplication of the plural number, so now at the present day, it has the postfix "s." Others tell us that the word "leven" is still retained in Scotland, where it denotes an open space or clearing, and having the same origin as the word "level," may have been applied to this tract, either by reason of the wood once upon it having been levelled—as *field* denotes an open space, from which the wood has been *felled*—or on account of the general level character of the ground surrounding the sands. Whilst others see in the name a corruption of the Norman-French, signifying the Manor of Le-fens.

THE POSSESSORS OF LEVENS.

FIRST EPOCH.—1188-1489.

BEFORE the time of the Conquest, this district formed part of the possessions belonging to Tosti, the great Earl of Northumberland, from whom it passed to Roger of Poictou, probably by forfeiture, for William was a despotic Prince, and rewarded his followers with the spoils of the native Britons. In the next century, about 1168, it became the property of Ketel, third Baron of Kendal, who seems to have occasionally lived at Low Levens, probably on the site of what has now become through successive re-buildings, known as Low Levens Hall. In the year 1188, Ketel sold off one moiety of his domain, now designated Upper or Over Levens, to Henry, son of Norman de Redeman,* retaining however, the other half, now known as Nether or Under Levens, which subsequently passed, with the original Manor House standing upon it, into the hands of a family who bore the name of "de Levins," and after them to the Prestons, who sold it to the Wilsons of Dalham Tower, about 1694.

From this time forward the two estates have remained separate, each having its own manorial residence; the former, with which we have now more concern, developing in historic importance, whilst the latter has become a farm-house.

It is to the family of Redmayne, Redmaine, Redeman, or Redmain, variously written, that we must ascribe the honour of commencing to build this beautiful pile; a family of immense wealth and importance in their day. After the purchase of Levens by Henry, we find him appointed in 1212, Seneschal of Kendal and a witness to Robert de Vetripont's grant to Shap Abbey. His son, Benedict de Redeman, found himself in the year 1216 imprisoned in Rochester Castle as an hostage to King John, for the future good behaviour of William de Lancastre, who had joined the rebellious barons. Sometime during the reign of Henry III, (1216-1272), Matthew de Redeman was Seneschal of Kendal, and attested the grant of Skelsmergh by William de Lancastre the third to Robert de Leyburne, and doubtless it was his son Matthew, who in 1295 we find M.P. for Lancaster, and a witness in 1297 to a grant of land at Old Hutton and Holmescales, by John de Culwen (Curwen) to his brother Patric. In 1312, Simon Redeman, and two years later, Matthew, were both Members of Parliament for Westmorland, whilst we find in 1325, a certain John de Redeman made Keeper of the King's Stud in Raleigh Park.

For what service to the king or state the family received the baronetcy, I have not discovered, but the first record found of it is in 1357, when Sir

* "Henricus filius Normanni de Redeman debet unam marcam; ut finis, factus inter eum et Ketellum filium Ucthredi de terra de Levens, recordetur in curia regis, de dominatione illius terræ, quam Ketellus concessit Henrico et hoeredibus suis. Cujus medietatem Henricus tenebit in dominico suo; et Ketellus tenebit aliam medietatem de Henrico, per idem servicium quod Henricus inde facit capitali domino." (Dugdale MS.)

Matthew de Redeman was Knight of the Shire for Westmorland. He died in 1360, and was succeeded by his son Sir Matthew who married Joan de Coupland. In 1376, the jurors on the inquisition postmortem of Joan de Coupland, found that Matthew de Redeman held of her, on the day she died, the manors of Upper Levens and Lupton, by homage and the service of £1 6s. 8d. yearly, as of her manor of Kirkby in Kendal. This "Maheu de Redmane" served in France and Spain under John O'Gaunt, in the years 1373, 1375, and 1380, and we find him a prisoner in 1376, unable to ransom himself, so that the Commons had to petition for him. He was elected in 1381 Warden of Roxburghe, in 1389 a Commissioner to treat with the Scottish envoys, and died in 1390. He was then succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Redeman of Levens, who married Elizabeth, widow of Sir Brian Stapleton, and daughter and co-heiress of Sir William de Aldborough of Harewood. By this marriage the Redemans acquired a moiety of the Lordship of Harewood, and other great possessions of the Aldborough family.

We first hear of this Sir Richard in 1393, when he was granted leave to hold a tournament at Carlisle, and then on the 17th of March, 1399, we find him receiving letters of protection for a journey to Ireland with the third Lord Cobham, and in May, treating for peace with the Scots. In 1405, he was commissioned to exact fines from those concerned in the Percy rising, and three years later, to receive submissions and levy fines on the rebels who had been defeated at Bramham Moor. In 1409 he was negotiating with, and raising forces against the Scotch, and in 1415 mobilising forces for the French War. Yet during all this martial life, Sir Richard seems to have been equally diligent in his Parliamentary duties, successfully climbing up to the Speaker's chair in less than ten years. Entering the House in 1405 as a representative from Yorkshire, he was returned again and again in the years 1414, 1415, 1420, and 1421, being elected* Speaker of the short Parliament which met from the 4th to the 12th of November, 1415. This Parliament was called together in the absence of Henry V. by the Regent, John, Duke of Bedford "in order to provide a good aid for the furtherance of the King's enterprise in France, and for the recovery of his rights in that kingdom." At last he died, in 1426, and eight years later his wife was buried with him in Harewood Church, both being predeceased by their son Matthew (1419), the grandfather of Dr. Richard Redeman, who was born in the Chapelry of Levens, educated at Cambridge and became Abbot of Shap, Bishop of S. Asaph in 1468, of Exeter in 1496, and of Ely in 1501.

The estates thus passed to another Sir Richard Redeman, who married Margaret, daughter of Middleton, of Middleton Hall, and who represented Westmorland in 1442. He had a son William, M.P. for Westmorland in 1477, but who died in 1483 without issue. Edward, his brother, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Hudleston of Millom Castle, widow of Sir Thomas Leigh of Isell, Cambridgeshire. In 1482, it was found by inquisition, that this Edward de Redeman held the Manor of Levens of William Parre, as of the Barony of Kendal. He was the last of the Redemans of Levens. Of his two sons who

* This pedigree is based upon that set forth in the "National Biography" and "Jewell's Topography of Harewood," but Manning in his "Lives of the Speakers," describes the Sir Richard who married Margaret Middleton as Speaker.

lived elsewhere, we may just mention that Henry the elder married Alice daughter of Roger Pilkington, and had issue Johanna who married Marmaduke, fourth son of Sir Wm. Gascoyne. Richard, the younger, married for his first wife Elizabeth daughter of Sir Wm. Gascoyne, and had issue Matthew who married Bridget Gascoyne, thus connecting the two families for the third time.

The arms which can be seen in the Speaker's house at Westminster were:—Gules, a chevron argent between 3 cushions ermine, tasselled, or. Crest: a dexter hand couped at the wrist, gules. Motto: sans sang nul victoire.

The Aldborough arms were:—Gules, a lion rampant, argent, charged with a fleur-de-lis, azure. Crest: out of a ducal coronet gules, a horse's head couped, ermine.

SECOND EPOCH.—1489-1689.

FOR three hundred years the Redemans held unbroken possession, until the year 1489, when the property was sold to Alan, eighth son of Sir Robert Bellingham, of Burneside. This Alan, who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Gilpin of Kentmere, was Treasurer of Berwick and Deputy Warden of the Marches. He further acquired numerous other estates in Westmorland, to wit:—Helsington, Gathorne, Fawcett Forest, and other estates in Lancashire and Northumberland, receiving in 1546 from Henry VIII, the Lumley fee, which constituted a fourth part of the Barony of Kendal. He appears to have been celebrated, not only for his social, but also for his martial disposition, and was aptly described in the following lines:—

"Amicus Amico Alanus,
Belliger Belligero Bellinghamus."

He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who owned the estates in 1549, and next by his grandson Alan, a Bachelor of the Inner Temple, one of the King's Council at York, and M.P. for Westmorland, in 1571. He married for his first wife Catherine, daughter of Anthony Duckett, and for his second Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Sandford, and died, as appears from his monument in the Parish Church, in May 1577. He was succeeded by his second son James, who married Agnes, second daughter of Sir Henry Curwen, and was knighted by James I at Durham, in 1603.

With Thomas Strickland, Sir James, in the year 1593, gave answer to Lord Scrope, Warden of the Western Marches, upon several points about which he asked their advice, viz.:—amongst others, "What courses were most meet to be taken for good order among the surname of the Grames," who appear to have rendered themselves very obnoxious by their lawless proceedings. These gentlemen advised that they ought to be held obedient to his lordship, or be summarily dealt with in default. It transpired, however, that notwithstanding promises to the contrary, the Grames still continued to give trouble, for in 1603,

a proclamation was issued by James I, decreeing the transplantation of these Grames elsewhere, to the intent that their lands might be inhabited by others of good and honest conversation. This was followed in 1614, by another proclamation for apprehending those who had returned from transportation. I mention this because it is somewhat curious to find one of the clan, in later years, holding the office of Privy Purse to the second James, and actually in possession of the same estates owned by the Sir James Bellingham, who had taken part some eighty years before in the family's disgrace.

Sir James died in 1641, and was succeeded by his second son, Sir Henry, who was Knight of the Shire for Westmorland in every Parliament summoned during the reign of King Charles I. Sir Henry, had seven daughters by his wife Dorothy, daughter of Sir Francis Boynton, but having no male heir to succeed him, his brother Alan Bellingham, Esq., by paying £3000 to Sir Henry's daughters, entered as heir in tail. This Alan was M.P. for Westmorland in 1661, and died in 1672. He was succeeded by his son James, who died in 1680, and next by his grandson Alan, who was M.P. from 1681 to 1685, and died in 1690. As so often happens, however, these fine estates, gathered together during long years with so much thrift and zeal, were for the sake of pleasure, dissipated away by this "ingenious but unhappy young man." Tradition alone is our authority for saying that he gambled his property bit by bit, whilst playing repeated games of chance, with his friend Colonel Grahme, the wily courtier of Charles II and James II.

The arms of Bellingham were:—Argent, 3 bugles Sable garnished and furnished Or; and for Crest, a buck's head couped Or.

THIRD EPOCH.—1689-1898.

LEVENS thus passed in 1689, by game or purchase, to Colonel James Grahme, a younger brother of Sir Richard Grahme, of Netherby. He is described as being a man of strong character, considerable ability and imbued with a good deal of caution. The latter would be a somewhat useful possession, seeing that he was Privy Purse to James II, and one of his most trusted servants. In those troublous times it required a certain amount of adroitness to enable a man to keep his head upon his shoulders.

It seems that Grahme in his younger days, always desired to have a Border Pele of his own, perhaps to recall to his fancies the customs and exploits of his ancestors; but when at last he became possessed of this stronghold, instead of engaging in guerilla warfare, he took infinite pains to make Levens a well-ordered estate, and a centre of hospitable re-union. The old feuds, the moss troopers, the burnings and cattle drivings had gone out of fashion, and his desire seems to have been to perpetuate a race at Levens, as pacific as the Netherby clan had been the reverse.

Born in 1649, educated at Westminster and at Christchurch, Oxford, he soon entered the army, in the service of the French, where he obtained several

commissions. Amongst the papers preserved is a passport, signed and sealed by Marshall Turenne to Mr. Grahame, dated from the camp at Detweiler, November 3rd, 1674, allowing him as Captain in the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth's regiment of Infantry, to return on his own affairs to England. This referred doubtless to his marriage at the age of 26, in the early part of the following year, to Dorothy, one of the maids of honour to Queen Catherine of Braganza, and daughter of the Honourable William Howard, fourth son of Thomas, 1st Earl of Berkshire. After settling down into married life, we find him representing the City of Carlisle, as Member of Parliament in 1685, Appleby in 1702, and Westmorland during the Parliaments of 1708, 1710, 1713, 1714, and 1722.

1688 

But the life of Colonel James was one of more than usual trouble. He had entered the world when the body of Charles I was hardly cold in its grave, and he did not leave it until George II was on the throne. During the whole of this time the air was rent by religious strife, and every man's hand was raised against his neighbour for worshipping God in a different manner to himself. A thorough Jacobite at heart, he suffered heavily amid the troubles of a successful Revolution in 1688-89, but survived to be a witness of the other less successful attempt in 1715. During the intervening quarter of a century he submitted to a state of things which his shrewdness saw to be inevitable. When his Parliamentary duties permitted, he sensibly lived quietly at Levens, avoiding public notoriety, but doubtless all the time associated with every new conspiracy, and breathing an atmosphere of intrigue, of discontent, of difficulty and distress, amid his ruined fortunes. Warrants were frequently out against him for high treason. In 1696, when a plot to murder King William III was discovered, many Jacobites were arrested on suspicion and imprisoned in the Fleet. Among these was Grahme, but with the Luck of Levens he was soon released, as nothing could be proved against him. Less fortunate in this respect were his two brothers. Fergus was banished from England and Lord Preston, with many other of his associates, sentenced to death.

Captain Bagot has written such a good account of Colonel Grahme and his close connection with the King, whom he accompanied in his flight to Rochester, that it will be unnecessary here to follow further into his history.

Among some of the most interesting of the Levens papers is one endorsed by Colonel Grahme, "King's Reasons from Rochester," and which is the original draft in the handwriting of James II, giving his reasons just before starting, for withdrawing from the country. As soon as His Majesty had crossed the Channel, he again writes in a disguised hand to Grahme the following letter, which is thus docketted:—"Mr. Banks' 1st letter after his going to Oxford." In the Jacobite correspondence at Levens, "Mr. Banks," the name of the Levens' steward, as it was then and curiously is now, often stands for the King; "Oxford," being the name for France.

Boulogne, January 4th, 1689. "I arrived safe here this day, and have but little to say to you at present but that I am going on to Paris, from whence you shall heare from me when I arrive there. In the meanetyme go to my corrispondent that payd you some mony upon my account, and put him in mind of putting the rest of the mony I bad him

put into your hands, that you may returne that, and what you had of myne in your hands, to me as soon as you can, I having present occasion for it, and pray remember me to your friend with whom I was to have been if I had stayed. Lett me know a little newse."

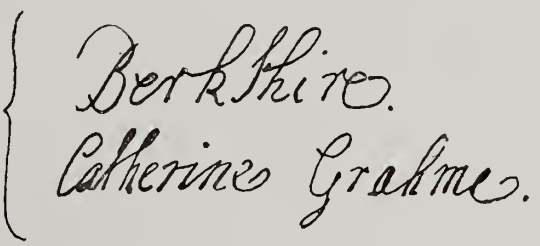
It is not known with certainty what family Colonel Grahme had. We only have mention of three sons and two daughters, to all of whom, with the exception of his favourite daughter Catherine, a melancholy history is attached. His eldest son Henry was elected one of the Knights of the Shire for Westmorland, to the Parliament which met in 1700, and only retired in order that his father might succeed him. There is little to be recorded of the remainder of a life which was speedily brought to a close, save the circumstance of his unfortunate marriage. It seems that a celebrated actress, Moll Davis, had attracted the notice of Charles II, and had by him a daughter, called Mary Tudor, who was described by Pepys in his Diary (March 1667), as being an infinitely superior dancer to Nell Gwynne. As she grew into womanhood, the King seems to have discarded Moll Davis as "a slut," and fallen in love with the daughter. Mary Tudor, being a notoriously bad woman, was married first at the age of fourteen to the second Earl of Derwentwater, and had by him three sons, two of whom perished on the scaffold. Within a year of the Earl's death, in April 1705, Henry Grahme married the widowed Countess, being dismissed in consequence from an office which he held about the person of Prince George of Denmark. On his death, his wife was married again within the year to a son of General Rooke. The second and third sons, Captain William and Richard also sank into early graves, leaving Colonel Grahme without a male heir.

Thus did the old Jacobite live, with troubles surrounding him in his public life and with sorrow in his home, until at last at the age of eighty years, he died in 1730.

The arms of Grahme were :—1 and 4 quarterly, Or, on a chief Sable 3 Escallops of the field; being the paternal coat of Monteith. 2 and 3 Or, a Fess Chequy, Azure and Argent, and in a chief a Chevron, Gules.

The estates then passed to his eldest daughter, Catherine, who married on the 5th of March 1708, her first cousin Henry Bowes Howard, 4th Earl of Berkshire, and Deputy Earl Marshall of England. By this marriage Levens became the inheritance of that noble family.

1709



On the 21st of March, 1757, Henry, fifth Earl of Berkshire, and grandson of the above, became heir to the estates upon the death of his father Viscount Andover. Also on the failure of the male issue of Thomas, Earl of Suffolk, he succeeded to this title, as 12th Earl of Suffolk, but dying in 1779, without issue, he bequeathed the whole of his Westmorland estates to his mother, Lady Andover, and after her death, to his sister Frances. This heiress married on the 20th of March 1783, Richard Bagot, fifth son of Sir Walter Wagstaffe

Bagot, who assumed by sign manual, the surname of Howard, and in after years became Recorder of Kendal.

His daughter, the Hon. Mary Howard, also heiress of Levens, was born on the 9th of May, 1785, and married on the 7th of July, 1807, Colonel, the Honourable Fulke Greville Upton, second son of Clotworthy, first Baron Templetown, who also assumed the name of Howard. They came to live here immediately after their marriage, although they did not inherit the property till the death of the Hon. Frances Howard, in 1818. Here their united influence at once became manifest, for whilst the Colonel was busy in putting in order the beautiful house and gardens, Mrs. Howard's benevolence found scope in the immediate neighbourhood. The peat cutters of Beethwaite and Brigsteer she found living in a disorderly and semi-lawless condition. The uneducated, barefooted and half-clothed children she encouraged and tempted to attend school; and the neglected, uncleanly and comfortless cottages grew less disgraceful under her repeated visits. Broken or stuffed-up windows were repaired, and the pigs ejected from the dwellings. Greatly encouraged, she built the present schools and master's house, the Church at Beethwaite Green in 1826, endowing it with an income of £200 per annum, and the Parsonage.

But her sympathies stretched beyond to all who were in trouble. She felt for the orphan girls whose only home was the workhouse, and dreading its demoralizing influences she was prompted to erect the Howard Orphan Home, near Kendal. To her liberality in building and endowing many other churches, schools and charitable institutions, Westmorland owes much, and by her friendship and simple goodness many have been blessed. Loving and beloved, full of years but fuller still of godliness and good works, she gently passed away at Ashtead Park, where she had spent her closing years, on October 19th, 1877. Her husband, Colonel Howard, died without issue, on the 4th of March, 1846, aged 73.

The estates then passed to the Hon. Arthur Upton, General in the Coldstream Guards, nephew of the above, being third son of the first Viscount Templetown, and brother of the third Viscount, who succeeded to the title on the death of his eldest brother, the second Viscount, in 1863. His mother was Lady Mary Montagu, only daughter of John, fifth Earl of Sandwich, and he married in September 1866, the Hon. Elizabeth Frederica Blake, the eldest daughter of Joseph, third Baron Wallscourt, and died without living issue in 1883, at the age of 77. The present worthy owner, Josceline Fitzroy Bagot, Captain in the Grenadier Guards, eldest son of Colonel Charles Bagot, and the late Mrs. Bagot (who was a daughter of Vice-Admiral, the Hon. Josceline, Percy, C.B.), and grandson of the late Right Honourable Sir Charles Bagot, and great great nephew of Richard and Frances Howard, next succeeded by entail.

The Bagots of Blithfield, Staffordshire, are a family of great antiquity, giving their name to a township as long ago as the 11th century, and having possessed Blithfield in unbroken tenure for more than 530 years. Captain Bagot, who married in June 1885, Theodosia, third daughter of Sir John Leslie, was aide-de-camp to the Marquis of Lorne from 1882-3, and to Lord Stanley in 1889, while they were acting as Governors General of Canada. He was elected M.P. for Westmorland, in 1892.

Thus for seven hundred years, this Hall has been in the hands of three families only :—the Redemans, for a period of three hundred years exactly, the Bellinghams for two hundred years exactly, and the Grahmes with their successors for another two hundred years ; three epochs, each of which has left its distinct traces upon the building. The Redemans built, Sir James Bellingham made the great restoration between the years 1586 and 1617, and Colonel Grahme and Colonel Howard the later alterations and additions about the years 1700 and 1800.

And what of the future ? For unto Levens was born on February 20th, 1896, a male heir, Alan Desmond Bagot, the first direct heir for upwards of two hundred years. To him I desire to dedicate these pages, and may God grant that his life be as full and as honourable as the lives of the noble ancestors from whom he descends—a life blessed of men, a worthy steward of this historic house.

THE ERECTION.

FIRST EPOCH.

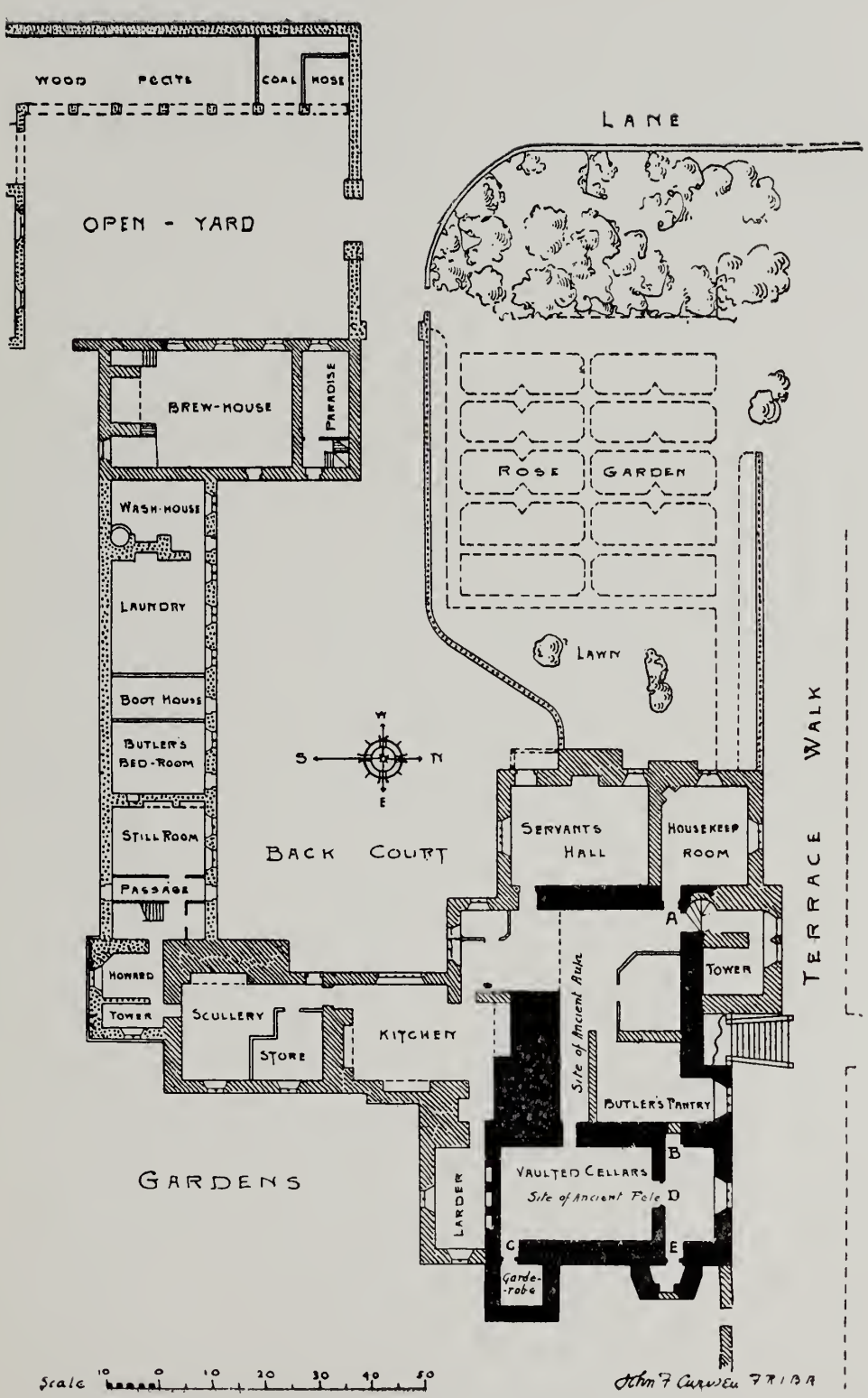
"I built my soul a lordly pleasure house
Wherein at ease for aye to dwell."—*Tennyson.*

AT what period the Redemans first built upon their estate cannot be ascertained for certain. We can only gather from clues, such as the enclosing of the Park by license in 1360, and from the general character of the residences of these early lords, that it could not have been much later than the beginning of the 14th century. Moreover, I am certainly inclined to agree with the late Canon Weston's theory, that the first building was in the form of a border Pele Tower.

In former times, when these counties were overrun so frequently by the northern tribes, it became necessary to erect places for defence and safety. A few great lords built strong castles on commanding situations, such as Penrith, Kendal and Lancaster Castles. But these fortresses alone were not sufficient to repel the continual incursions, so that it became necessary to construct a number of smaller castles, or halls, as they were called by way of distinction, for the protection of the labouring part of the community. These were owned by yeomen, friends and followers of the barons, who contracted to furnish their lords with troops on every emergency, whilst the baron, in like manner, was bound to defend their persons and property. The whole district in which Levens is situated was studded with edifices of this description, as can still be seen at Arnside, Hazleslack, Borwick, the ancient Dallam Tower, Sizergh, Burneside, and Kentmere ; each of which has been constructed for purposes of security and defence, with their massive towers as a distinguishing feature. "The vast and solid mansions of our ancient nobility were like their characters—greatness without elegance ; strength without refinement ; but lofty, firm and commanding."

Regarding the position of the Pele, Canon Weston inclined to the belief that it stood at the north-east corner of the present buildings, and was built up of plain rubble, without plinth, set off, or string course, over the existing barrel-vaulted cellars and their low benchings of stone work, now filled with an array of prodigious casks. If this were so, it must have measured externally 46 feet by 25 feet, with the end walls 3 feet, and the flank walls 4½ feet thick. By way of comparison, we may mention that the Pele of Sizergh measures 60 by 40 feet, with its walls 7 feet thick; Arnside, 48 by 32 feet; Burneside, 45 by 30 feet; Kentmere, 32 by 23 feet; and Hazleslack, 30 by 24 feet.

From the plan it will be seen that there are two projecting bays, leading out from the cellars at the north-east and south-east corners, the former of which has a blocked-up doorway, which may have been built for protection, as an outer entrance to the Pele, whilst the latter has probably been the basement to a garderobe tower. The three doorways marked C, D, and E, are Carnarvon arched, which clearly indicate 13th or 14th century construction.


WOOD
PEATS
COAL
HOSE
OPEN - YARD
LANE
BREW-HOUSE
PARADISE
WASH-HOUSE
LAUNDRY
BOOT HOUSE
BUTLER'S BED-ROOM
STILL ROOM
PASSAGE
ROSE GARDEN
LAWN
W
S
N
E
BACK COURT
SERVANTS HALL
HOUSEKEEP ROOM
TERRACE WALK
A
TOWER
HOWARD TOWER
SCULLERY
STORE
KITCHEN
Site of Ancient Aisle
BUTLER'S PANTRY
B
VAULTED CELLARS
Site of Ancient Pele
D
LARDER
C
E
Garde-robe
GARDENS
Scale 10 0 10 20 30 40 50
John F Curwen FRIBA

As time advanced and property became more secure, additions and modifications were made to these comfortless abodes, and the Redemans would build on to the west side of this Pele, the "Aula" or Great Hall, which had probably a lofty, and massive oaken timber roof. There is still to be seen in the present attics spanning across the same area, only higher up, two open-framed and cut trusses, which may have been used for this ancient roof, and are now doing service in the more modern structure above. This Hall measures internally 40 feet by 22 feet, being the same length and just 2 feet wider than the Great Hall at Sizergh. The old connecting doorway with the Pele is still to be seen, though now blocked up its recess is shewn at B, which would be closed, first by a massive oak door, and then for further protection by a second door of crossed iron bars, framed together. Just within would be the raised dais, with its flanking window bay, and the long table, at the higher side of which the lord with his family, and any distinguished guests took their meals, whilst on the floor below those of an inferior rank were seated at tables ranging along each side of the room. At the opposite or western end, the oaken screens, 9½ feet high, extended across the full width, dividing off the heck or passage, from which opened out the kitchen, buttery and other offices and from over which the musicians in the minstrel's gallery, would on all occasions of more than ordinary importance, enliven the feast with their melody. This hall was also used for the transaction of business between the lord and his vassals, for here he would hold his royalty court, receiving their suit and service, and administer justice according to the powers granted to him by the Crown. At night time, the retainers would huddle together on the thickly strewn rushes in the middle of the floor, around the fire and its convolving wreaths of smoke ascending to the open lantern in the roof. For, it must be remembered that although we have record of chimneys being destroyed by an earthquake at Venice in 1347, and twenty years later of Francesco da Carraro introducing them to Rome as a novelty, they were not introduced into England, except to a few castles such as Kennilworth, Conway, and Bolton (1398), until the middle of the 15th century, about the time when the Redemans would be transferring Levens to Alan Bellingham. Leyland, in his Itinerary, writes, "One thynge I muche notyd in the hawle of Bolton was how chimeneys were conveyed by tunnells made on the syds of the walls and by this means and by no covers is the smoke of the harthe wonder strangely conveyed."

The old stone pointed arched doorway, with a chamfer in cavetto, leading to what used to be kitchens, still stands (A on plan), piercing a wall 4 feet 6 inches thick, and we are told that traces of outbuildings have been discovered in the garden at this end of the house, with indications of having been destroyed by fire.

But now all is greatly changed. The spiral stair, leading to the lord's withdrawing room and solar, is gone. The Pele itself, bereft of its battlements, is over-laid and disguised, and the ancient "Aula," with its kitchens, after having endured possibly a century and a half, have given place to the great re-modelling of the Second Epoch.

"Time
Has moulded into beauty many a tower,
Which, when it frown'd with all its battlements,
Was only terrible."

SECOND EPOCH.

IT was Sir James Bellingham who commenced, and in a great measure, carried out the extensive alterations, marking a distinctive feature in the growth of Domestic Architecture, which transformed the Border Pele into a stately Elizabethan mansion. Surely we may say with Emerson,

> "He builded better than he knew;
> The conscious stone to beauty grew."

These alterations can easily be traced, owing to the good practice of carving on some conspicious place the name and initials of the owner, together with the date of the completion of the work.

His first undertaking seems to have been the pulling down of the south wall of the ancient Pele, together with its spiral stair, in order to lengthen what is now the drawing-room. With this work he entirely re-constructed the "Aula." Raising the floor nearly to the level of the first one of the Pele, so as to give ample room for servants' offices beneath, he built the present magnificent banqueting hall, and above the enriched plaster ceiling, he raised a suite of bedrooms. During this 16th century, wainscotting the walls in oak superseded, to a very great extent, the tapestry which used to be so skilfully worked by nimble fingers, and which, with the aid of the woven fabrics from Flanders and France, had attained its climax as a mural decoration, during the 15th century. So here we find the tapestry, with which the old hall had been hung, removed for the adornment of other rooms, and replaced by an oak panelled dado, some 9½ feet in height, the interval between it and the ceiling being made up with plaster decoration and emblazoned coats of arms. To this work he added the beautiful staircase whose steps are made out of solid blocks of oak, but which are now, we might almost say unfortunately, cased in.

After resting perhaps awhile Sir James seems next to have turned his attention to the entrance, erecting that graceful flight of stone steps and the square plinthless but embattled tower. The spiral stair, recessed in the thickness of the wall, at first mounts with comparatively modern steps round its newel to the right, and subsequently changing over continues the ascent round to the left. This upper flight is so worn and old in appearance, that one is almost led to believe that it may be a portion of the original Pele stair, reset into this new position. In like manner, the rough, uneven flooring boards, left unplaned from the adze, bear witness to the supposition that the tower stands to-day but little altered since the date of its first erection.

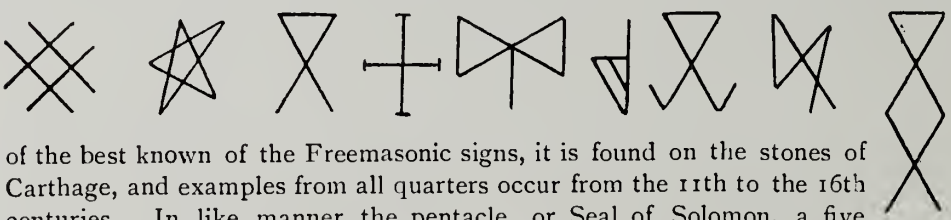
In consequence of increasing refinement and the altered habits of living, arising out of the decline of the feudal system, we find the lord and his family wishing to dine apart from the retainers, necessitating a separate chamber for that purpose, and likewise, a desire on the labourers' part to receive wages and live with their own families. Hence the erection of the dining-room in 1586, as is seen from the date on the mantel piece, built probably on the foundations of the ancient kitchens.

Behind are the spacious kitchens, built about the same period at a right angle to the great hall. No baronial hall could be complete without this impor-

tant adjunct to hospitality, so accordingly we find it of large dimensions, with an enormous fireplace. There is also still existing the long range of stoves for charcoal cooking, and the dresser, glittering with the pewter dishes and plates that were used at Grahme's table.

The windows, throughout, with the exception of a few modern ones, are insertions made at this time. The comparatively peaceful state of the country rendered it unnecessary to study so much their security and strength, as formerly, hence we find from the 15th to the middle of the 17th century, they attain to greater dimensions horizontally, whilst during the last two centuries, the tendency has been for the enlargement to take a vertical direction, to accommodate the innovation of the sash window. Likewise, glass being cheaper, there was no longer the need for the windows either to remain unglazed, or to have the small wooden frames of glass, which used to be carried about and inserted in the windows of the house, to which the lord removed from time to time. Stained glass also became more common at this period, and was introduced as a means of adding beauty to the more important rooms.

Engraved upon the mullions throughout the house are various interesting Mason's Marks, some of which are here illustrated. The hour glass form is one



of the best known of the Freemasonic signs, it is found on the stones of Carthage, and examples from all quarters occur from the 11th to the 16th centuries. In like manner the pentacle, or Seal of Solomon, a five pointed star formed by a continuous line, is a widely spread sign, and is found on a Saxon fibula of the 7th century.

As at Burneside, Gathorne and Helsington, so also here we find that the Bellingham family considered a domestic chapel a necessary part of their residences, and that during the alterations they erected a room adjoining the new dining room, which doubtless was used for this purpose until the time of the Third Epoch.

THIRD EPOCH.

THE chief alteration made by Colonel James Grahme, was the conversion of the above mentioned chapel into a library, and the space beneath into a servants' hall. This took place about the year 1692, as is seen from the initials I.D.G., 1692, 1700, upon the leaden spout heads, and 1704 on the rainwater cistern, outside these walls. Added to this, he erected what is now the main staircase, to give more commodious access to the bedrooms over the dining room and hall, which had previously only been reached by the spiral stair in the Bellingham Tower. Beneath this new staircase, Colonel Grahme railed off the present enclosure to take the place of the dismantled chapel, and here prayer is still daily said when the family reside at Levens.

During December, 1703, a rather alarming fire took place in the Bellingham kitchens, which is well described in a letter from the steward, Timothy Banks to the Colonel, dated December 23rd.

"Your honour will receive by this post severall letters about the sad and sudden accident wch fell out at Levens on Tuesday morning last. I must say that it was the greatest mercy that my lady and the young ladies (Catherine and Mary) were not burnt in their beds—both the kitchings, the larder, my lady's closets, her chamber and the room where the linen was laid out, were burnt downe and the halfe of Mrs. Sarah's chamber was broken down to save the fire from going further into the staircase. There were two great beams that lay over the furthest kitching that were burnt to pieces, when you see it you will wonder the house was not on fire before, ffor in the roome where Mrs. Sarah lay that chimney was built upon wood, and now it discovers that the piece of timber that lay under the hearth was burnt quite through before now I told your Honour that all the linen that was in the closet was burnt, but what was in the wash and foul was saved.

As for the Plate, all the Casters for Sugar, Mustard and Pepper were melted, and the great Silver Bason and the two Gilded Cups, and all your Honour's Spoones and Forkes but three were half melted. All the knives were entire, and Godfrey has 'em to boyle and cleane. The service is all melted or spoyld; but we think we have saved all the Bullion. The high Kettle Pans for making Pyes in, and the Sauce Pans cannot be used again, but the mettle is saved. They dress the meat now in the Brewhouse great chimney. After the fire was put out, we watched the house all night, and next morning we were careful to be present, when the rubbish was cleaned out of the Skullery, to see for the melted Plate, Pewther and other things, and I am very sure there was nothing throwne out among the ashes. We sav'd the Bookes and Papers in your Honour's Closet and I believe that none will be wanting. The accident was sad and molancholy, but certainly a great mercie that any in the house was saved. The fire was extinguished with the greatest industry and care that could be in the Country, and the damage only the two Kitchings and Larder betwixt, and the rooms over 'em burnt to the ground. When you see I am confident you will be pleased that there was no greater destruction. I bless God my Lady and younge Ladies are in good health and hearty; onely my Lady hurte her ancle in the fire, but I thank God she is pretty well of it againe."

Colonel Grahme must therefore have restored these kitchens, above which, at some later period, a suite of bedrooms were erected, together with buildings at right angles to these, called the "White End," affording further accommodation, with a variety of offices beneath. The clock, which in its turret surmounts this roof, bears date 1773, and the lead spout heads at the back bear date M.A. 1787-1788.

It would seem that when Colonel the Hon. Fulke Greville Howard came to Levens in 1807, he found the old buildings and gardens in a very dilapidated condition, and it was to his excellent judgment, admirable taste and true feeling of interest in the work, that he was enabled to bring back the gardens and "old brown rooms," into what might have been their condition when seen at their best.

The fine Howard Tower, at the intersection of these two new wings was erected by him, for the especial use of the Hon. Mary Howard. From the windows of her little boudoir, but better still from the leads above, a splendid view is obtained of Morecambe Bay, Whitbarrow Scar and beyond the distant summits of the Langdale Pikes. Whilst in the foreground we obtain the best view of the wondrous gardens, to which Levens owes at least half of its celebrity. This boudoir is wainscotted with oak, purchased from Lord George Cavendish's woods at Cartmel. So careful was Colonel Howard of his own timber, that he would not injure them by felling a few trees, even for the repair of his own mansion. Over the fireplace is a piece of carved work, representing hunters to the left and reapers to the right, with a man in the centre, holding out a horn to the one, and a sickle to the other. Above are two other old panels, one representing our Saviour speaking to his twelve disciples, and the other representing the two disciples, Peter and John, running to their Master's tomb (a square wooden looking coffin and lid), and finding it empty.

The billiard room, which is now hung with tapestry, was converted into such by the present owner. At the further end of the room is hung a splendidly embroidered crimson mameluke saddle, with its rich furnishings and huge gilt iron stirrups, which was once used by Elphi Bey. There are also two fine oil paintings one of Katherine Grahme, and the other of Mary Viscountess Andover, by John Glover, R.A.



ENTRANCE HALL.

HAVING now completed the history of this remarkable building, it will be interesting to say a little more regarding the decoration of, and the many relics contained in, some of the principal rooms.

What immediately strikes the notice of the visitor, as he crosses the court-yard and ascends the flight of time-worn steps, is the beauty of the Entrance Hall in its entirety. The massive door, with its iron horse-shoe, opens wide and direct into the noble Hall, at once giving a feeling of hospitality and an old English welcome, ever freshly and abundantly linked with cultured kindliness.

> "Through this wide opening gate,
> None come too early, none return too late."

On every hand there is a richness of decoration and of artistic repose. Around the walls may be seen glaives, matchlocks, pistols with the Bellingham initials engraved upon them and bearing date 1689, together with spears, spurs, and other arms manifesting the bruises of war and the rust of time. Breastplates of about the time of Charles I, doubtless those which were used by the armed retainers in the days when the owner of Levens was Deputy Warden of the Marches. There are also, a curious old firelock with all the machinery of its clumsy lock on the outside, old powder horns, helmets, pikes, parts of mail armour, and a particularly curious pair of bits, all of which are very well worth the attention of the antiquary.

Occupying a central position is the head of a Wapiti deer, unique for its great size, presented to Capt. Bagot by an American Indian, and beside it there is a dog collar of Colonel Grahme's, engraved with a crown and the initials C.R., and which has evidently been used for that fashionable breed, known as King Charles' spaniels; whilst on a carved oak cabinet beneath are to be seen some old-fashioned brass taper holders. On the floor by the old clock, as seen in our illustration, are piled up several hollow grenades, which filled with powder and a fuse were thrown by the hands of the grenadiers. These interesting relics of a bygone warfare, which have led to the name of "Grenadier Guards" being given to one of our crack regiments, were carried by Prince Charlie's army, when they passed through Kendal in 1745. They were found in a pond at Forrest Hall and brought here. Above the cheery fireplace ever filled with massive logs, are three beautifully carved oak Scripture pieces, representing the Annunciation, the Wise Men's Offering, and the Adoration of the Shepherds.

But perhaps the most noticeable feature of the Hall, is the enriched plaster frieze of emblazoned coats of arms, which shew the different alliances of the Bellingham family. Commencing at the Window Bay, they are as follows :—

1. Bellingham and Burnishead quartered.
2. Bellingham quartered with those of Burnishead on the dexter half, impaling the Gilpin arms—a wild boar leaning against a tree—on the sinister half, shewing the marriage of the Alan who purchased Levens.
3. Bellingham and Burnishead on the dexter, impaling the arms of Sandford with its three quarterings for English, Crackenthorpe, and Lancastre on the sinister.
4. Bellingham and Burnishead on the dexter half, impaling those of Curwen on the sinister.

In the next three shields the Bellingham and Burnishead arms are curiously placed on the sinister half with the arms of the three successive Bellingham owners on the dexter. On the south wall, the first three shields bear the Bellingham and Burnishead arms still on the sinister side, while the dexter half is unoccupied, evidently intended for the emblazoning of future alliances, whilst the fourth and fifth are occupied by the arms of Bellingham quartered with Burnishead. All these shields are ornamented with scroll work and with two most uncouth faces to each, raised in the plaster, looking very much like the compressible indiarubber faces, which delight the children of to-day. Over the fireplace in the place of honour, are the Royal Arms of Elizabeth, with the garter bearing the motto "Honi soit qui mal y pense," the crest and supporters surmounted by the letters E.R., and below "Dieu et mon droit." The frieze, which continues around the west and north walls is filled in with grotesque devices and figures of men and beasts. The one next to the front door certainly gives the impression of a well-fed page boy, saluting the incoming master. Among the minor devices on the ceiling and walls are the Tudor Badge, the rose surmounted by a crown, the white and red roses of York and Lancaster united, and the bugle horn and the buck of the Bellinghams.

The original stone fireplace, as we have said, is now to be seen in the Servants' Hall, the present one being along with the front door, insertions made

by Colonel James Grahme. The oak screen at the west end, similar in detail to one at Burneside Hall, bears the initials I.A.B. and the date of 1617.

A portion of the north side, recessed back and raised some two or three steps, is a most delightful and cosy retreat, lighted by a large mullioned window fitted with lead glazing of delicate and beautiful design, and where

> "The beams that through the Oriel shine
> Make prisms in every carven glass,"

One can hardly desire a more idyllic place for letting the imagination run free over the quickly filling page of fiction, or for the reader's fancy revelling in some engrossing plot unravelling itself towards its close.

The two shields of old stained glass, inserted in the upper lights, bear the quartered arms of Bellingham and Burnishead impaling (1) the arms of Curwen and (2) the quartered arms of Sandford and English.



NORTH DRAWING ROOM.

MOUNTING the few steps through the East Wall, we next enter into what was formerly the lord's Solar of the Border Pele, but now all the attributes of its ancient occupation are gone, and we have before us a sumptuous example of two apartments, in which survive the adornment and furnishings of the Elizabethan period.

There is a tradition that Sir James Bellingham keenly felt the rivalry of the neighbouring Hall, where his contemporary Walter Strickland, was erecting some exquisite inlaid and carved oak work. Being determined however, not to be surpassed, he decided to lavish all the wealth he could upon this room, and the richness of the carved panelled work with the magnificent chimney piece is sufficient evidence of this resolution. Some conception may be formed of its beauty from the accompanying illustration, and from the fact that the late Mr. Gillow valued it, some eighty years ago, according to the state of wages then given, at between two and three thousand pounds. The overmantel is divided into six compartments, built up and separated by Ionic columns and entablature. In the three upper compartments are carved the initials I.B., the Royal Arms of Queen Elizabeth and the date 1595, and in the three lower compartments are the Bellingham arms crested with motto "Ainsi il est," the Bellingham and Burnishead arms quartered and crested bearing the same motto, and the Bellingham and Burnishead arms impaling the arms of Curwen, bearing the Curwen motto "Si je nestoy." The whole mantel is considered to be one of the finest pieces of

carved oak in the kingdom. Over the main door are again carved the Bellingham and Burnishead arms quartered with those of Curwen, whilst over that leading to the south drawing-room, is the figure of a man, clothed with a small apron, upon even which the arms of Bellingham are again to be found. Truly the horn was a most appropriate armorial bearing for a man so fond of blasting forth the honour of his handiwork.

In the north window are the arms of,

1. Bellingham quartered with those of Burnishead with the legend "Amicus Amico Alanus, Belliger Belligero Bellinghamus" in a scroll at the sides, and for motto "Ainsy L'est."
2. Bellingham and Burnishead quartered in the dexter half impaling those of Curwen. Motto "Si je nestoy."
3. Bellingham and Burnishead quartered. Crested with couped buck and Motto "Ains-yl-est."
4. Bellingham and Burnishead quartered and impaling Sandford and another coat.
5. Same as number 2.
6. Bellingham and Burnishead on the dexter, and twelve different coats on the sinister, bearing date 1613.

In the deep recessed bay we find eight small diamond panes stained with the arms of Bellingham and Burnishead on the dexter side of each, whilst on the sinister are the arms of (1) Salkeld, (2) Burnishead, (3) Tunstall, (4) Barburne, (5) Becke, (6) Gylpyne, (7) Sandford, and (8) Curwen.

Around the walls are hung portraits of Henry VII by Mabeuse; Anne Boleyn, said to have been painted by Holbein; and Lady Mary Bagot, grandmother of Captain Bagot, by J. Hoppner, R.A.

On every hand are rich treasures, consisting of inlaid tables of various coloured wood, or inlaid with brass and covered with morocco, a valuable Chinese screen in embossed gold, an exquisite and delicately painted fan and many historical treasures contained in a glass case. Amongst the latter we notice an autograph of the unfortunate King James II, endorsing a page of accounts, lying beside one of our own Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, pasted in the cover of a book presented by her to the Rev. C. Kingsley, "in recollection of the greatest and best of men from the beloved Prince's broken-hearted widow, Jany. 4, 1863." Also a valuable prayer book, bound in a richly embossed and oxydised silver cover, which was presented by the Queen to Canon Wellesley, and afterwards given to Mrs. Bagot by her godmother Mrs. Wellesley.

Here also may be seen a most ancient parchment with the writing still legible and its ink quite clear, bearing the date 1190, with the seal of Richard I attached. It is a charter exempting Henry de Redeman from the payment of a tax called "Nutgeld." A high backed chair is well worthy of attention, being covered with an old crewel work embroidery, the colour of which is as fresh as if newly done. Can it mean that the dyeing of wool, like the pigments of the Old Masters, is to us a lost art?

In a beautiful inlaid frame there are some very fine miniatures. Especially we notice a rare one of Catherine of Russia as a young woman, which belonged to Poniatowski, and was given by the Emperor Alexander to Sir Charles Bagot, when ambassador at St. Petersburg; Louis XIV and Prince de Conde by Petitot;

Joseph Addison, Bolingbroke, and Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, by Zincke; a fine Cosway of Lord Wellesley, and below is one of the Duke of Wellington with a piece of his hair as a young man, and also another piece taken after his death, together with some hair from the mane of his famous charger "Copenhagen." On a table close by is the clasp of Napoleon's cloak found in his carriage at Genappes, on the day after Waterloo by Colonel Percy, aide-de-camp to the Duke.

The touches of colour in this room given by the various coloured Italian and English brocade of chair covering and curtain, light up the sombre brown of the dark oak panelling, giving to it its complimentary tone, and thus making one harmonious whole.



SOUTH DRAWING ROOM.

PASSING through the panelled screen we enter the cosy and sunny drawing room, overlooking the gardens, with its walls panelled in diamond pattern up to the richly embossed plaster ceiling. The oaken mantelpiece, like the one at South Wraxhall, is supported by two jambs, representing on the left Samson armed with the jawbone of an ass, and on the right Hercules covered with a lion's skin and armed with a club. The overmantel above is divided into two compartments, surrounded by emblematical designs, over the top of which are the well-known arms of Bellingham. That on the right is filled with the four Seasons, and the one to the left with the four Elements, whilst beneath is carved the following characteristic inscription :—

"Thvs the five Sences stand portraitted here ;
The Elements fovre ; and Seasons of the yeare ;
Samson supports the one side as in rage,
The other Hercvles, in like eqvipage."

The elements are thus depicted :—FIRE is an old man sitting with his feet upon flames, among which a salamander is crawling, in his hands he holds the forked lightning. AIR is a young man standing upon a cloud letting a bird fly from his hand. WATER is sitting upon a rock pouring water and fishes from an urn. EARTH is standing laden with the fruits of the earth and bearing a castle upon his head.

The Seasons are thus described:—Spring, a young man sitting with a basket of flowers on his knee beneath a foliaged tree and crowned with a wreath of daisies. Summer, a man with a wheat sheaf and sickle in his hands and ears of corn for his cap. Autumn, an elderly man with grapes and a cup. Winter, an old man clad in a fur garment, sitting under a leafless tree, holding a chafing dish of coals to his breast.

The Senses are thus represented:—Hearing, a female figure blowing a horn. Smelling, a similar figure with a rose in her hand. Tasting rejoices in a handful of grapes, peaches and other fruit. Seeing reclines in an upper corner beholding herself in a vanity looking-glass, whilst at the opposite corner Feeling languidly allows a small bird to peck at her finger. Unfortunately the bird is now missing. Considering the period at which this work was executed, the drapery throughout is most graceful.

In the south window are the arms of Bellingham, quartered with Burnishead, also in another light the bugle horn of the Bellinghams, both of which are crested with a couped buck and bear the initials I.B. with the motto "Ainsi-il-est."

In this room are two fine portraits painted by Sir Peter Lely, of Colonel James Grahme and his wife Dorothy, which were given to the Honourable Mary Howard by Sir James Grahme of Netherby, and in both of which we notice the beauty of the long tapering fingers.



DINING ROOM.

MOUNTING the steps at the west end of the great Hall, we enter the dining room, its flanking windows overlooking the beautiful rose garden. What a charming room it is! With the walls overlaid with richly coloured leather of old Spanish or Italian workmanship stamped on a background of burnished gilt, one can easily recognise the allusions in old papers to this room as the "Gilded Parlour." Mrs. Bagot in her charming description of Levens, written to the *Pall Mall Magazine*, ponders over the secrets and plots that these walls might disclose, could we but trace on the panels as on a phonographic disc, the talk of Grahme and his guests, as they mingled with their wine the oft repeated toast—"To the King over the water." But high carnival need not be relegated only to that unrestful time, for in these later days and quieter moods, each panel truly still continues to vibrate with many a joyous sound and loyal toast, For Queen and Country.

The oak mantelpiece and door heads are ornamented with inlaid holly and ebony, and in the centre of the mantel are the arms of Bellingham with the initials and date I.B. 1586.

The southernmost window is evidently an insertion made in the time of Colonel Grahme.

BELLINGHAM STAIRCASE.

THERE hangs on the Bellingham staircase, framed and glazed, a curious relic of the ancient customs with which Christmas was celebrated in the olden time. It is a sheet of folded paper, from which our illustration has been photographed, about two-thirds full size, on which some doggerel lines are written in faded manuscript, respecting The Lord of the Misrule at Levens some two hundred years ago. Stowe, who described Christmas customs in England nearly a century before the date of this paper, writes as follows:— "At Christmasse, there was in the King's House, wheresoever hee was lodged, a lorde of misrule or mayster of merrie disportes, and the like had they in the house of every nobleman of honor or good worshippe, were he spiritualle or temporall."

The term "His lordship's horse," is equivalent to "the stang" a Danish name for a pole, and "his lordship's chair" is the same as "the basket"; to publicly ride either of which was a form of local punishment for notoriously bad men or women.

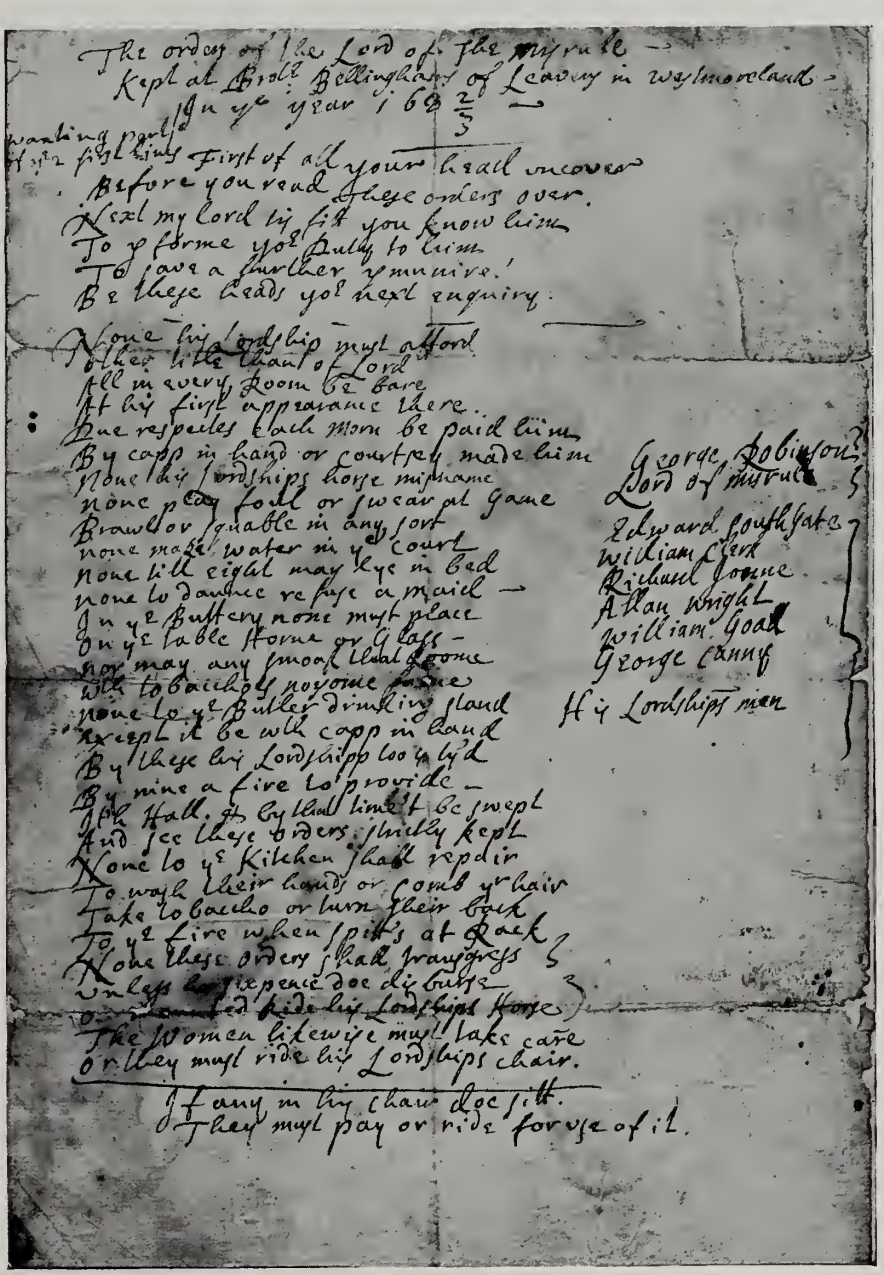
Hanging upon the wall of the vestibule at the top of this staircase, is a charming pastile drawing made by J. Nash, R.A. in 1840, of the Hon. Mary Howard sitting in the south drawing room with her favourite dogs.

Near by is a glass case, in which are many interesting and valuable relics interwoven with family history. Beside the dress worn by Charles Bagot as a page of honour to King George IV at his coronation on the 19th of July, 1821, we notice especially William Pitt's despatch box, which belonged to Canning and was given by him to Sir Charles Bagot; the gloves worn by the Duke of Wellington on his entry with the allies into Paris in 1815, together with his spectacles used in 1841; a locket containing the hair of Sir John Moore, cut off at his burial at Corunna by his aide-de-camp the Hon. Henry Percy, great uncle to the present owner of Levens, and worn by him until the day of his death;

> "The treasures of a soldier, bought with blood
> And kept at life's expense,"

and many another token which conjour up to the mind's eye the stirring events and great lives connected with our National history.

> "We are a people yet
> We have a voice, with which to pay the debt
> Of boundless love and reverence and regret
> To those great men who fought, and kept (our England) ours,
> And keep it ours, O God, from brute control;
> O statesmen, guard us, guard the eye, the soul
> Of Europe, keep our noble England whole."



The orders of ye Lord of ye misrule —
Kept at Broth. Bellingham's of Leavery in wylmooreland —
In ye year 1682/3 —

wanting parts of ye first lines First of all your heads uncover
Before you read these orders over.
Next my Lord hy sir you know him
To yt forme yor duty to him
To have a further ymmunire.
Be these heads yor next enquiry.

None hy Lordship myt afford
Other like thann of Lord
All in every Room be bare
At hy first appearance there.
One respects each morn be paid him
By capp in hand or courtsey made him
None hy Lordships hoyse mi[sname]
none play fould or swear at Game
Brawl or quable in any sort
none make water in ye Court
none lik sight may lye in bed
none to dawnce refuse a maid —
In ye Buttery none myt place
On ye table Horne or Glass —
nor may any smoak that Roome
wth tobaccho noysome fume
none to ye Butler drinking stand
except it be wth capp in hand
By these hy Lordshipp look to hyd
By nine a fire to provide —
In Hall. ye Cyther line swept be
And see these orders strictly kept
None to ye Kitchen shall repair
To wash their hands or comb yr hair
Take tobaccho or turn their back
To ye fire when spit's at Rack
None these orders shall transgress
Unless by Sixpence doe dy butye
Unmounted ride hy Lordships Horse
The Women likewise myt take care
Or they myt ride hy Lordships chair.

If any in hy chaw doe sith.
They myt pay or ride for use of it.

George Robinson Lord of misrule
Edward Southgate
William Clerk
Richard Towne
Allan Wright
William Goad
George Canny
Hy Lordships men

THE ORDERS OF THE LORD OF THE MISRULE,
KEPT AT BROTH. BELLINGHAM'S OF LEVENS IN WESTMORELAND
IN YE YEAR $168\frac{2}{3}$.

GRAHME STAIRCASE.

ON the walls of this staircase, which is curtained off from the hall by a large drop piece of tapestry, hang the oil portraits of the Honourable Mary Howard by Weigall; Sir Charles Bagot by H. W. Pickersgill, R.A.; Mrs. Bagot (1890) by her father Sir John Leslie; Colonel F. G. Howard by G. H. Harlow; and of William, third Earl of Mornington, by Sir T. Lawrence, P.R.A.

In the transome lights of the great window are insertions of stained glass bearing the arms of,

1. Grahme impaled with Howard.
2. Howard with the arms of Grahme upon a shield of Pretence.
3. Howard impaled with the arms of Suffolk.
4. Mary, Viscountess Andover.
5. Howard quartered with Bagot with the heiress' arms upon a shield of Pretence.
6. Howard quartered with Upton with the united arms of Howard, Grahme, and Bagot, likewise on a shield of Pretence.

The Howard arms all bear upon the Bend the Augmentation of Honour which Henry VIII granted to Thomas Duke of Norfolk, and his posterity, for his victory at Flodden Field, wherein King James IV of Scotland was slain on the ninth of September 1513. It represents the Royal Shield of Scotland, having a demi-lion pierced through the mouth with an arrow.

Below the transome is a small insertion placed to commemorate the achievement of Lord Templeton, Colonel Howard's younger brother, at Alma, Inkerman, and Balaclava, he having rented the Hall between the years 1850 and 1860. In the west window are the arms of Bagot with those of the heiress upon a Shield of Pretence, bearing the initials R.B.—F.H., for Richard Bagot and Frances Howard, with date Anno 1783; also the arms of Bagot impaled with the arms of Leslie, bearing the initials of Captain and Mrs. Josceline Bagot, with the date 1885, to commemorate their wedding.

On mounting the staircase, we find in several of the upper rooms some most interesting specimens of needlework. Notably, in one of the bedrooms leading out of the billiard room, known as Bishop Ken's room (it being occupied by that saintly Bishop when staying at Levens), where all the curtains, both on bed and windows, the covering of the chairs and the closely quilted counterpane are made of the smallest patchwork, wrought in divers patterns and pieced together with consummate patience in that bygone age. That was a time surely when eyesight was at a discount and the world, at least a woman's world, did not revolve, as it does now, on tyred wheels! Some of the chintz used in this patchwork is hand-painted, which at once takes us back to the time before the days of Manchester printed calicoes. In another room we come across one of the earliest examples of this latter day manufacture, in the curtains on a bed; and so in these lesser things, handcraft giving place to the development of steam power, we read of the advance and rush of the world's history, which even the quiet restfulness of Levens cannot shut out.



YELLOW ROOM.

THE above illustration gives a fair representation of the beautiful bed which still exists in this room with its carved wooden canopy, and delicately wrought and twisted posts. Covering the bed is a most exquisite quilt of fair linen worked with yellow silk embroidery, the quilting of which, in a waving design, is of the finest backstitching.

There are two other quilts in neighbouring bedrooms worthy of mention, one of which certainly hails from the far East and is a most interesting specimen of Japanese work; whilst the other seems to have come from the far West, perhaps from the wigwam of some Red Indian squaw, as the curious quaint design of flowers and warlike figures, in many hues of silk, resembles the handiwork of that fast diminishing race.

SERVANTS' HALL.

THE most interesting object in this room is the old fireplace, bearing the initials I.B. and A.B. 1589, for James and Agnes Bellingham, which was removed from the great hall and reset here by Colonel Grahme. The walls are wainscotted around some 7 feet high, and contain two very fine specimens of old arm chairs, and two long oaken tables together with their benches. Here also as well as in other parts of the house are shelved large numbers of pewter plate, mostly bearing the crest of the Grahmes.



LIBRARY.

WITHIN this most cosy retreat, high wainscotted in old oak to the ceiling, are two pictures worthy of mention, the one representing some Canadian boatmen painted by H.R.H. the Princess Louise, and the other a crayon portrait of Charles Bagot (1827), drawn by George Richmond, R.A.

BREWHOUSE AND STABLES.

IN the court yard is the Brewhouse, with its wide open mouthed chimney, and where are still the steps and other remains of places for vast coppers, coolers, and ovens.

The Stables although interesting to walk through, have little to attract especial attention, except the two very fine freestone doorways which come upon you with great surprise. So striking are they in comparison with the rest of the quaint old building that one can only speculate of their having a prior existence in the hall itself.



THE GARDENS.

LIKE the house, the Gardens have also experienced the same three epochs, each characteristic in its turn. The embattled wall of enclosure, moat and entrance gateway, forming the outer defences of the old Pele Tower of the Redemans, gave way to the Elizabethan pleasance with its terraced walks of roses and other old English flowers under the Bellinghams, until the third epoch, when Monsieur Beaumont laid out the strikingly beautiful gardens as seen to-day. There is strong evidence to shew that, in all their main features, they have been handed down almost exactly as at first designed. Covering an area of some seven acres, these gardens are in themselves so perfect, absolutely perfect and without rival, that Lord Stanhope speaks of them as being the best specimens of their style in this country.

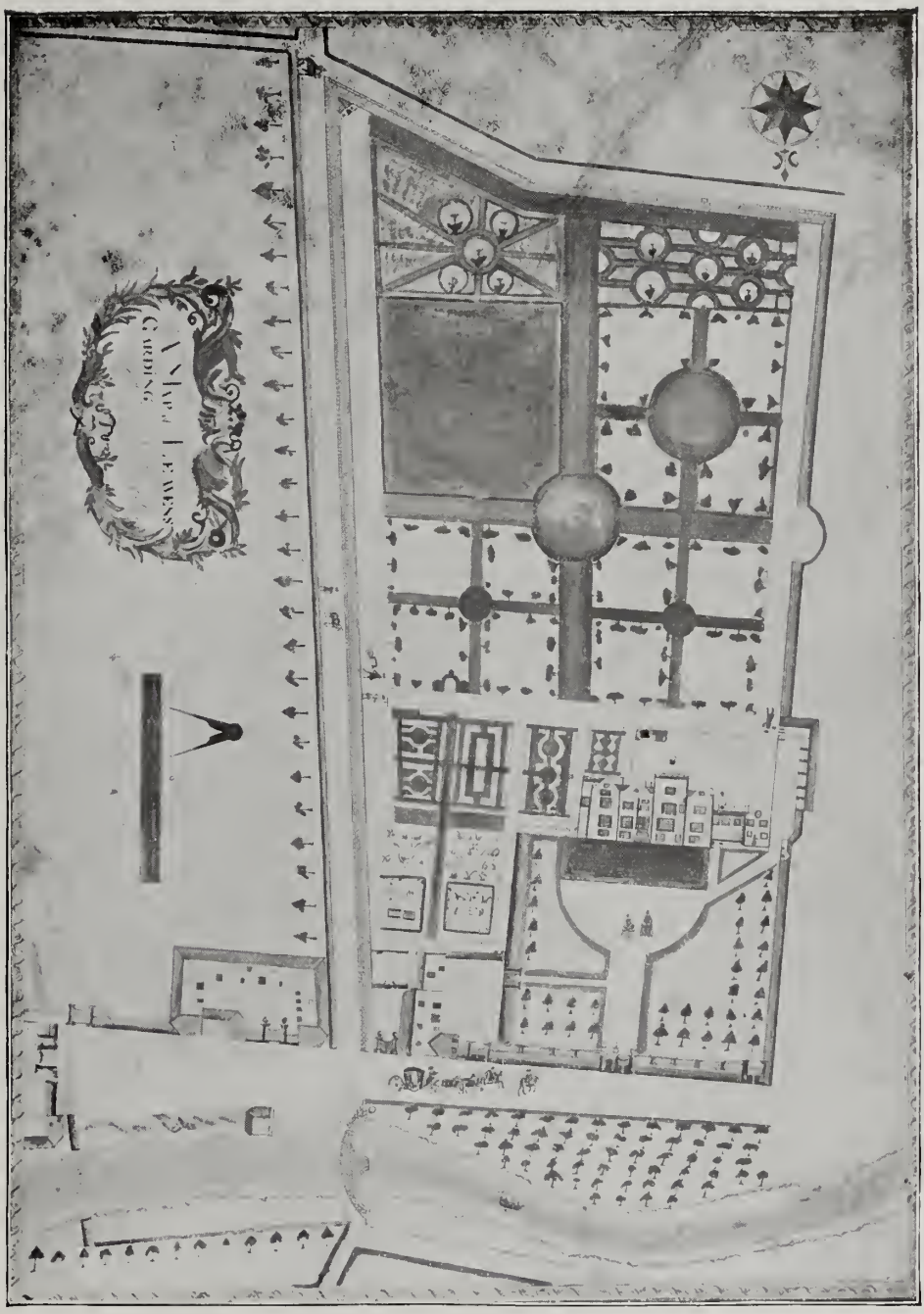
To the late Canon Weston I am indebted for the following history :—" The gardens are in the style called ' topiary ' from the ' opus topiarum ' of the Romans, a term applied by them to the trees and shrubs clipped into various fantastic shapes, either alone or in groups, or extending in long lines, which form the chief feature of this kind of gardening. It was one in which the Romans—and when their taste was considered at its best—took great delight. It may have been borrowed by them from those garden-loving nations the Egyptians, Babylonians and Assyrians; so at least one might conjecture from

garden scenes on the walls of Egyptian tombs, and from descriptions of the hanging gardens of Babylon and Nineveh. But the fondness of the Romans for gardens in this style we know from many of their own authors. Pliny, in particular, has given us an account in great detail of the gardens of his Tusculan Villa, now Frascati, a portion of which was laid out in this style. So minutely and carefully, indeed, are its details described, that his account has served to guide the laying out of all such gardens since the revival of classic learning, when it became the rage to reproduce, as far as any traces afforded the means, all the arts of Roman civilisation. These gardens were brought into vogue again in Italy by the Medici family, in the begining of the 16th century, and intercourse with Italy speedily led to their adoption in other countries. Francis I. in building Fontainebleau, laid out part of his gardens in this manner; but under Le Nôtre who lived a little later, and who has been considered one of the ablest gardeners of any age, this style attained a degree of perfection fully equalling, if not excelling, anything described by Pliny. It was under his superintendence, and the lavish munificence of Louis XIV, that the gardens of Versailles, St. Cloud, and St. Germains were laid out, the former at a cost of no less than two hundred millions of francs. From France the fashion passed on into this country; and it is possible enough that King James II, when desirous of laying out his Hampton Court Gardens in this style, would from his intimacy with the French Court, seek a competent man for his purpose from the great French master of the art, and that Beaumont, to whom the work was confided, was a pupil recommended for his proficiency."

Known to Colonel Grahme while at Court, he no doubt accepted employment under him when the misfortunes of their common master (after the Revolution of 1688) brought their respective engagements to a close, and under his able superintendence the gardens of the Colonel's newly acquired property were planned and carried out during their enforced seclusion in the country. Hanging on the walls of the Bellingham staircase there is a portrait of this pupil who is thereupon described as "Monsieur Beaumont, Gardener to King James 2nd. and to Coll: Js. Grahme. He laid out the Gardens at Hampton Court and at Levens." The gardener's house is still called "Beaumont Hall."

There are some interesting and amusing scraps of information connected with the work whilst in progress to be gathered from letters still preserved, addressed to Colonel Grahme by persons in his employment, one of which at least may be worth quoting. Soon after a commencement had been made, in the autumn of 1701, a terrific storm seems to have raged, the effects of which are described in a letter by the steward James Loftus, a shrewd intelligent man, but a very bad speller, in this graphic manner :—

"I am very soury," he writes, "to send you this bad newes, but its such a thing as hath not bene in this countrey in no ag of man that is a liffe now at prasent. Wind and Raine. The wind hath blown down, in the parke, hallfe the best eash trees that is in the parke, and done a boundinance of harme in others, that is in blowing down littel birchers. Their is but one ocke tree, but it is a very good one and all shiffeard too bits, it stod upon the bank by Lady Cloase, some ashers by it. It hath done great damedg in the garden amongst trees. bemun (Mr. Loftus' phonetic rendering of Beaumont) is very much disturbed about is trees, he wants stakess for them."



"A Map of Leavens Garding

BELONGING TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE HENRY BOWES HOWARD EARL OF SUFFOLK AND BERKSHIRE BY R. SKYRING."

MADE ABOUT 1720.

Allusion is made in other letters to the principal features of the garden existing at the present day—the bowling green, the beech hedges, and the greens (meaning no doubt the evergreens), also to the rows of limes, chesnuts and beeches at the end of the garden next Heversham, all now stately trees. These limes, it may be noted in passing, must have been amongst the first of their kind planted in England. They were introduced during William III's reign (about 1695) from Holland, where they were favourite trees. From the mention of the stout ash stakes which were needed to steady the trees against the wind, we may infer that they must have been of considerable size when planted. If this was also the case with the evergreens, they were probably large enough to be shaped somewhat into the forms intended for them afterwards to present, and by this means the general design of the garden, together with much of its detail, would be realised at once. As a proof of this there is in the gallery at Levens an old and remarkably accurate plan of the house and gardens (illustrated on the preceding page), which was made not more than twenty years after Beaumont's time and which shows the "Wig" summerhouse, clipped in the present form and standing almost as large a feature as at the present time. Sticking up in the "Judge's wig" is a military figure, painted on a piece of board, which tradition says is a representation of Colonel Grahme. But the bower itself is altogether a curiosity, as it opens with kindly attraction to the sighing swain to lead the maid of his heart to its recess, free, shall we suppose, from the prying eyes or listening ears of a maiden aunt or suspicious governess. But it flatters alas only to betray; for at either side, and opening out from concealed walks are two other shelters, entering into the very heart of the clump of yew, and affording every convenience for hearing the softest heart thrown whisper. How many a love-sick lass has had cause to curse these secret arbours!

Oh the ingenious design and quaintness of these great fantastic forms, scattered about on every hand, which seem to rise up before one, as far as the eye can see, for truly the whole garden seems bewitched. At one corner stands the King with his crown upon his head, and opposite the Queen with her arms all akimbo, here a crowned lion lashing its tail, there an archway, now a huge umbrella or colossal helmet, and there along avenues carpetted with soft green turf are, as Lord Stanhope in his "History of England" so well puts it, "eagles of holly and peacocks of yew, which still find with each returning summer, their wings clipped and their talons pared."

The Maze no longer exists, but upon the ancient bowling green can still be seen some bowls, which have engraved upon them the Bellingham crest, in addition to one or more pairs of James Grahme's and Lord Thanet's. Unfortunately the green colour on the original plan has photographed a dark shade which almost obliterates the four figures of the Colonel and his friends moving about in their game, but on turning the page upside down they and their bowls can just be traced. Near by is a central circular space, beech-walled all round some 12 feet high, with smooth shaven surfaces, so sleek and comely. As seen from the roof of Howard's Tower they remind us vividly of Versailles and Watteau. Allowing the imagination to wander, you almost instinctively look for the dent of high heeled shoes in the soft daisied turf, for the rustling of hoops and the richness of plum coloured coats and laced waistcoats amid the

tender green of the young beech leaves, which literally swarm with birds, those "poor men's choristers" who

"Chaunt melody in every bush."

Flanking the frames and hotbeds is an embattled wall, just so high that you cannot tell what it conceals, whilst the flower beds of most intricate patterns are surrounded with well clipped box edging, said to be at least nine miles in total length. The old fashioned herbaceous plants, the hollyhocks and sunflowers, pansy, fuchsia, marguerite, sweet-williams, roses, lavender, pinks, and honeysuckle, which growing side by side in artless profusion, make these gardens all the summer long a living mass of sweet scented brilliancy, to which on each succeeding Thursday afternoon, by kindly permission, our townsfolk love to go.

There is still preserved at Castle Bellingham in Ireland a diary made by Colonel Henry Bellingham, in August 1668, which is so interesting as shewing the mode of life in those days—the after dinner games of bowls, the fishing and otter hunting in the river, and the shooting of fat bucks in the park,—that I make bold to quote the entries made during a ten days' visit.

Preston, August 1.—A Fayr day. The Duke of Somerset came to this town, upon whom the Mayor and Corporation waited in their formalities, and gave him a noble banquet and wine, and made him and Mr. Cholmondeley of Vale Royal and two other gentlemen free of the Corporation. I was envited with Col. Rawston to supper with him—there we had some discourse about Parliament.

2nd.—A Fayr day. Chancery Court. Mr. Rochford and Mr. Ludlowe came here—we dined at Turlegh's, after dinner and bowled, and at night went to Rigby's with several gentlemen of the town.

3rd.—A Fayr day. We went to Lancaster and called at Garstin and saw Lancaster Castle and Church.

4th.—A Fayr day. We went over Cartmell Sands to Levens and found the sands boggy and hazardous. Reach Levens before dinner, after which to ride a buck but he broke out of the Parke, from thence we came to the Force but gott no Fish. We shott a fat Buck.

5th.—A Hott day. We went to Heavsam Church and heard Mr. Ridley preach and the Schoolmaster Green came to dinner with us, in the evening we all walked into the Parke which is very pleasant and delightful, and Tom Banks came to us.

6th.—A Hott day. We rode to Heavsam Head and viewed the fine country about. Went to the Force, some fish taken several ways after dinner. Bowled with several of the neighbours. Sweetnam a youth of good fortune, dined with us.

7th.—Some rain this morning. We rode and saw the colts. After dinner we went to Kendal where we were handsomely entertained by Mrs. North and her sonne, and by Mr. Joseph Sympson.

8th.—Much rain this morning. We hunted an outlyer and brought him into the Park and killed him after seeing admirable sport both by land and water. We bowled all the afternoon with Dr. Farleton.

9th.—A Fayr day. We dined at Crooklands. Saw Sawney Harrington. Drank a bowl of punch and came home in good time.

10th.—A Fayr day. We left Levens about eight in the morning. Dined at Lancaster. Called at Garstin and reached Preston between eight and nine.

RADISH FEAST.

THIS annual feast in these gardens was instituted in the time of Colonel Grahme, and until quite recently it was regularly held. On each recurring 12th of May, the Mayor and Corporation of Kendal went in procession to proclaim the Fair of Milnthorpe, originally a seaport town one and a half miles distant, the rents of which belong to the House of Levens. The ceremony of the Proclamation being ended, an adjournment was made to the Cross Keys Hotel for the customary dinner, after which the whole company retraced their steps to the garden at Levens to view the sports, to which also the tenants of the estate and other friends were invited. Curiously enough, and for why I cannot tell, none of the fair sex were allowed within the garden walls, a rule which seems to have been most rigidly enforced.

Tradition gives a comical explanation of the reason why the Mayor and his retinue attended this feast. It seems that in the time of the Colonel great rivalry existed between the House of Levens and that of Dallam Tower, both being anxious to attract the greatest attention. On one occasion Dallam Tower invited every person who attended the Fair to partake of the good cheer lavishly provided in their Park, and so great was the success that the time-honoured festivities at Levens were, for that year entirely deserted. Whereupon Colonel Grahme, exasperated at this affront, "swore a huge oath" that he would have a more splendid company the following year, and he kept his word by inviting the august Mayor and Corporation of Kendal and by giving them such a royal reception and entertainment, that it is said, they were pleased to comply to his invitation in the succeeding years.

Along one side of the bowling green long tables were ranged, well laden with haver-bread, butter, radishes, and the ever memorable "Morocco," an unique species of strong ale brewed at the Hall. After the repast came the "Colting" of new visitors. These neophytes were brought into a ring, or "haltered" according to the conventional phrase, when they were required in turn to stand upon one leg and drink what was called the "Constable," a weighty glass filled with half a pint of "Morocco." This had to be emptied at one draught, pledging at the time the ancient house in the words, "Luck to Levens as long as the Kent flows." Declining or failing to accomplish this feat, the forfeiture of a shilling was required for the benefit of the under gardeners, and well they deserved it, for it is said that it took a full day's work for four men to clean the radishes eaten at this festival, which were conveyed to the tables in wheel-barrow loads. Cannot one easily imagine the ludicrousness of this sport? The anxious face of each as his turn came round, the choking trial and oft ignominious failure. Oh the laughter and study of physiognomy and expression. But after all the forfeited shilling was a better and a kinder ending than that prescribed for failure in the colting at Haddon Hall. For there in the days of merriment, if a man should fail to drink up his quota of liquor, he was fastened up like an

obstreperous horse, by his wrist to a ring, and the liquor poured down his sleeve so as gradually to trickle down him during the remainder of the feasting.

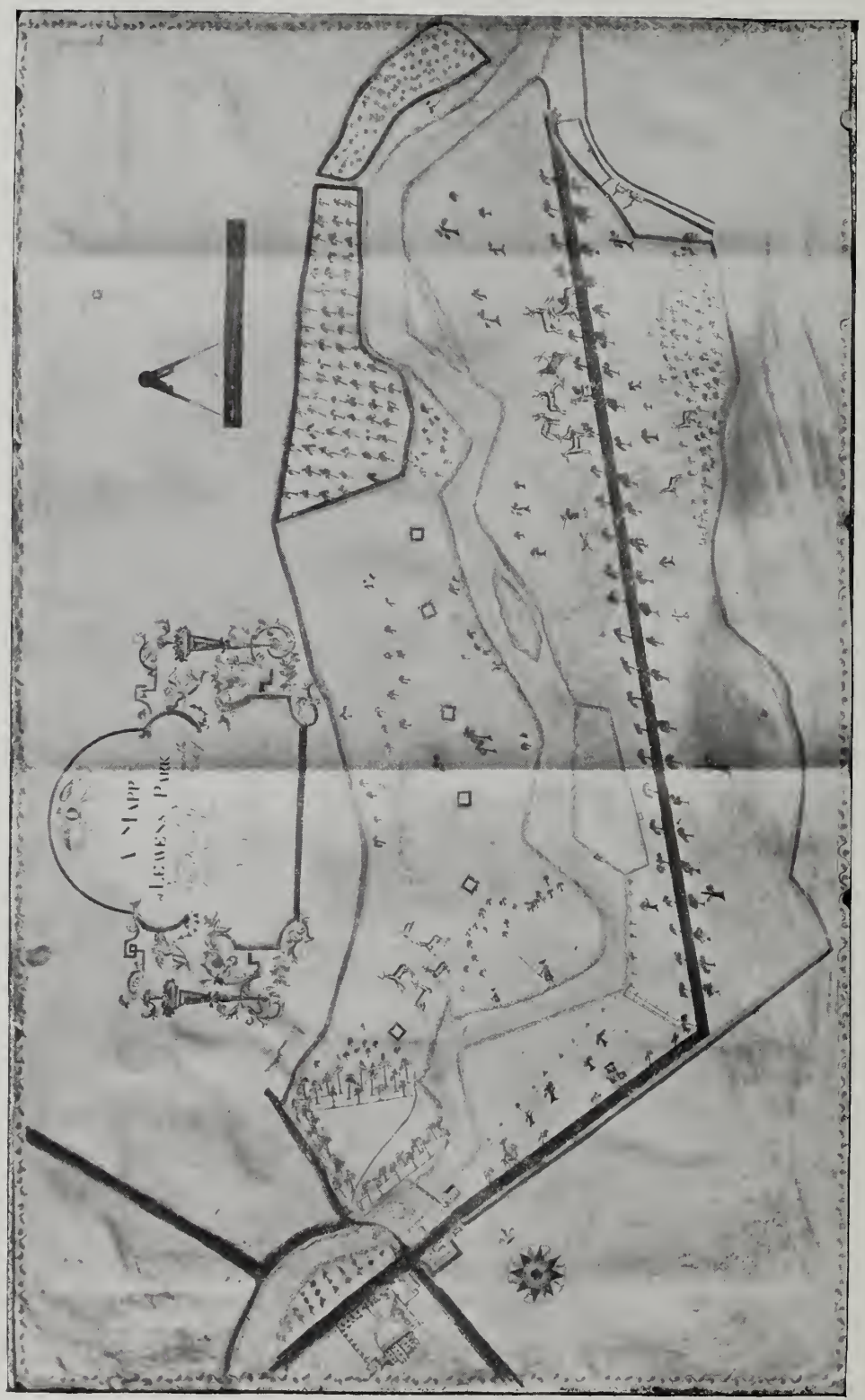
After the "colting" the whole company adjourned to the Park for the customary sports, only to return again to the bowling green before wending their way homewards, for further copious refreshment and for the lusty cheers, three times three, which every north countryman knows so well how to give. A similar colting custom described as "Drinking the fox's head," annually takes place at the dinners given by the Eton Club in Oxford.

Castle Bellingham ale is still famous in Ireland, and it is quite possible that one of the Bellinghams introduced the brewing of it at Levens, but so far as I can ascertain, the distinctive name of "Morocco" was given to it by Col. James Grahme when a courtier of Charles the Second. It will be remembered that in 1662, Tangiers was granted by the Crown of Portugal as part of the dowry of the Queen Catherine of Braganza, consort of Charles II. There was probably, therefore, much laughter and talk about the dark Moorish peasants of Morocco at the time of the marriage, and it is quite likely that the "King's witty servant" may have in consequence given this name to his favourite drink, the *dark coloured* ale of Levens.

There is a legend that the secret recipe for brewing this strong ale was, during the civil wars, buried wrapped up in lead, near an evergreen in the old garden. The beer is said to be kept twenty-one years before being tapped.

The origin of the name of "The Constable," in like manner, may be derived from the fact that Colonel James Grahme was appointed by the Duke of Norfolk, High Constable of Windsor Castle and a Deputy Ranger of Windsor Park. The original massive and antique glass is still carefully preserved. In shape it resembles a huge jelly glass, with a capacity of about one quart. Standing some sixteen inches high, it measures four and a half inches across its mouth, and the solid glass stem is an inch and a half thick. Engraved in bold characters around the top are the words,

"LEVENS HIGH CONSTABLE."



"A Mapp of Leavens Park," made about 1720.

THE PARK.

LEVENS Park is one of the oldest deer parks in England still existing as such, and is the only one left of fifteen which were round Kendal in the 16th century. In 1360 it was enclosed by licence, at which time Sir Matthew de Redeman was the owner, and to its glory we must add that the acreage for which the licence was then granted remains the same to-day, if we take into consideration the two fields on the south of the oak avenue, around which the ancient park fence is distinctly traceable.

The park is bold, romantic, and beautifully wooded with limes, birches, sycamores, and gigantic pines, through which the River Kent winds, at places entirely shut in by lofty banks and the noble avenues of oaks, supplying as of yore, many

> "An oak whose boughs are moss'd with age,
> And high top bald with dry antiquity."

On the southern side of the river, at a place called Kirkstead, were the ruins, apparently in Dr. Burn's time, certainly in Camden's time, of an ancient round building, said to have been a temple dedicated to Diana. Near to which were the ruins of another antique structure which seem to have belonged to the same place. On the northern side is a spring, called the "dropping well," which is still of a petrifying quality and in a short space of time will turn moss, wood, leaves and the like into stone.

The park is stocked with a peculiarly dark breed of fallow deer, in connection with which an odd coincidence is frequently remarked respecting them, so much so indeed, that it has almost become a legend, that whenever a white fawn is born to the herd, some change is predicted to the House of Levens. Within living memory four such occasions have arisen, as for instance when Lord Templetown came to Levens after the Crimean War a white fawn was born, and another after General Upton's death in 1883, also another on the twelfth of June 1885, the day after Captain and Mrs. Bagot's wedding day, and the last instance occurred a little more than two years ago when Mrs. Bagot bore to Levens a male heir. This latter fawn is still to be seen in the park. To illustrate the superstition that had gathered around the white deer, as early as Lord Templetown's residence at Levens, between 1850 and 1860, we may mention the following:—A white buck which had appeared in the herd, was ordered to be shot, but the keeper was so horrified with the deed, which he thought to be "waur ner robbin' a church" that he actually went so far as to remonstrate with the Crimean veteran. Persuasion being of no use, he at last refused point blank to do the deed himself, and another man had to do it for him. In a few months great troubles came over the house. In quick succession it changed hands twice; the steward, servants, and gardener all lost their places, and the keeper firmly held to the belief that all was due to the shooting

of this white deer. "Ouida" has written the following acrostic upon the white fawn born at the time of Captain Bagot's wedding:—

"**T** he woods of Levens hail the white fawn's birth,
H erald and symbol of the "Gift of God"
E ven as summer broadens o'er the earth;
O h that the White Doe's Laureate liv'd now
D welling in misty shadows of the hills,
O r that the Seer, who sang of Christabel
S inging could sing of this White Fawn which fills
I n northern legend full as fair a place,
A s the fair beast which Rylstone's wood did haunt.

L ift up your voices, Poets of the Lakes,
E pithalamium meet we cannot chaunt,
S ing ye and shout until sweet echo wakes,
L ift up your voices ye immortal dead
I n the grave shallow of the mountains rise,
E ven arise and hymn these lovers wed."

There are two waterfalls not far from here, which are alluded to by Fuller, in his usual quaint manner:—"I learn out of Master Camden, that, in the River Cann in this county, there be two cataduphoe or waterfall, whereof the northern, sounding clear and loud, foretokeneth fair weather; the southern on the same terms presageth rain. Now, I wish that the former of these may be vocall in haytime and harvest; the latter, after great drought, that so, both of them may make welcome musick for the inhabitants." The meaning of which of course is that the south-west winds generally bring with them the rain.

And so—our task being done—we bid farewell to lovely Levens. But lingering on the picturesque old bridge, that spans the

"Swoll'n brook that bubbles fast.
By meadows breathing of the past,"

we let our eyes dwell once again upon the almost idyllic picture presented to our gaze. And from the realms of fantasy, we conjure up to mind the warrior Redemans, stern and fierce, marshalling their forces by the riverside; we catch glimpses of the courtly Bellinghams, in velvet and ruffles, walking and talking in their pleasance, or drinking to the health of the Virgin Queen in the noble Hall of Banquet; whilst, yet again, our cheeks are scorched by the fierce breath of treason and unrest that swept over Levens in the time of the wily Grahme; till at last the spell is broken, and we must fain realize that we are ourselves, ourselves again, dwelling in the less romantic but more peaceful days of our own beloved Sovereign.

And thus, with grateful thanks to Captain and Mrs. Bagot for their kindly courtesy in allowing a dive into every nook and corner, we leave this

"English home—gray twilight pour'd
On dewy pastures, dewy trees,
Softer than sleep—all things in order stored,
A haunt of ancient Peace."

KENDAL:
PRINTED BY T. WILSON,
MDCCCXCVIII.

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